



State of North Carolina
Utilities Commission

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March 28, 2005

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Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45
Madison River, MebTel and BellSouth
Joint Petition for Expedited Waiver
DA 05-521

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) hereby submits this statement in response to the Joint Petition for Expedited Waiver filed by Madison River Telephone Company, LLC (Madison River), MEBTEL, Inc. (MebTel), and BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. (BellSouth) with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on or about January 27, 2005, in the above-referenced docket. The NCUC has reviewed and granted the petition to transfer the Milton and Gatewood (North Carolina) exchanges from BellSouth to MebTel, filed with the NCUC on December 29, 2004. This action was taken on March 24, 2005, in Docket No. P-55, Sub 1541 and P-35, Sub 101.

MebTel has for many years held a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued by the NCUC authorizing it to provide intraLATA and intrastate telecommunications services in the Mebane, North Carolina, exchange. In addition, on December 15, 1997, in Docket No. P-100, Sub 133c, the NCUC designated MebTel as an eligible telecommunications carrier under federal law for receiving federal universal service support for its NCUC-assigned service area. Furthermore, since 2001 the NCUC has annually certified to the FCC, pursuant to 47 USC §254(e) and 47 CFR 54.314, that MebTel should continue to be eligible to receive federal universal service support finding.

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Consistent with the aforementioned actions previously taken, the NCUC does not oppose a grant of the waiver of the definition of "Study Area" requested in the Joint Petition for Expedited Waiver filed with the FCC.

Please contact Robert Bennink, the Commission's General Counsel, at 919/733-0833 if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely yours,


James F. Kerr, II
Commissioner

DL/pb